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The truth uncorked: Michigan's direct wine shipping rights

Myth of the week:

Michigan is working to ban all direct wine shipments to Michigan consumers.

Facts:

The Michigan Legislature is considering two direct wine shipping proposals: one to preserve direct wine shipping to Michigan consumers with careful regulation and another to completely ban the practice and strip Michigan wineries of rights they have enjoyed for more than 30 years.

Senate Bills 625 through 628 and House Bills 4987 through 4990 would maintain Michigan consumers' access to direct-shipped wine while providing a mechanism for the collection of sales taxes and keeping wine out of the hands of minors.

The Michigan Commission of Agriculture this week adopted a resolution supporting Michigan's direct wine shipping rights as a means to maintain and grow the wine industry and increase the benefits it provides to Michigan's economy and agricultural heritage.

The resolution states: "Further growth of the Michigan wine industry has great potential, but also faces a number of challenges, including access to markets and the ability of consumers across the state and nation to purchase Michigan's outstanding wines."

The governor also has gone on record saying she does not support a complete ban on direct shipping of wine to consumers.

For more information on the effort to maintain Michigan's direct wine shipping rights, contact Sen. Michelle McManus' office at 517-373-1725.

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